

Guide to Visa Status & Career Planning



Visa Status	Purpose	Target	Application Time
CPT	For any off-campus employment that is part of a degree requirement	F1 student with lawful status for one full academic year but not yet completed course of study	Any time as long as you are qualified
OPT	To get permission for off-campus employment related to your major after graduation	F1 student + valid I-20 & passport + full time	Between 90 days before the academic program end date
H-1B	To continue to work in the U.S. up to six years after OPT	International worker who will perform services in a special occupation field. It is your employer's obligation to do the petition for you.	Six months before the actual start date of the visa.

REMEMBER

- Be enrolled in school while doing your CPT
- Notify ISSS Advisor and cancel CPT with USCIS if your job status changes
- If you have full-time CPT for a total of 12 full months (365 days), you will not be eligible for OPT
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics degree holders on OPT are eligible for a total of 29 months
- F-1 Students may not have more than 90 days (3 months) of unemployment during the initial 12-month OPT. For F-1 students in STEM majors, no more than 120 days (4 months) of unemployment may occur during a total 29-month OPT.



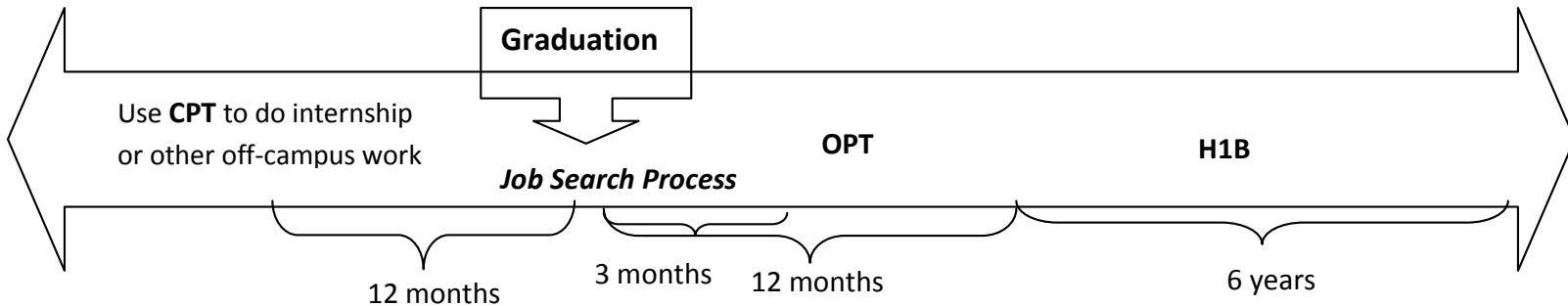
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAREER SERVICES

Student Success Center, Room 7 - 909 Lowry Mall, Columbia, MO 65211
573.882.2170 - iscareer@missouri.edu - <http://career.missouri.edu/ISCS>

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YOUR VISA & CAREER LINE



SAMPLE OF CAREER PLANNING

Rajat plans to gain some work experience after graduation, so he participates in an internship last summer using a CPT to add practical experience to his educational foundation. Although Rajat starts to explore his career options early, he can't find a position that fits him before graduation and he still has three months of unemployment during the initial 12-month OPT.

After several interviews, Rajat decides to work in Klewer Inc., because it's an international friendly company and willing to apply for Rajat's working visa right away. In the meantime, Rajat works actively with the academic department and Klewer Inc. to apply for the H1B visa.



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